Allocation for safe drinking water to rural settlements

† 3593. SHRI BALKAVI BAJRAGI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of those States facing acute problem of polluted water, which have been taken on priority basis by Government for the increased allocation of two thousand crores of rupees to provide safe drinking water in all the rural settlements of the country during the next four years; and

(b) by when this scheme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMAj: (a) and (b) As per the information received from the StatcsUnion Territories, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttaranchal. Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and the Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Pondicherry are facing problems of chemical contamination of ground water sources.

The Centra] allocation for rural water supply sector has been raised from Rs. 1,800.00 crores for the year 1999-2000 to Rs. 1,960.00 crores for the year 2000-2001. The allocation for the sector is determined on year to year basis. The funds under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) are allocated to StatesUTs as per approved allocation criteria.

Drinking water being a State subject, the schemes for supply of safe drinking water to the rural habitations of the country are implemented by the State Governments under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Central Government supplements the efforts of the States by providing funds under the ARWSP. The State Government can utilize up to 20% of the ARWSP funds for implementation of schemes to tackle the quality problems under the Sub-Mission Programme. The powers to plan,

† Original notice of the Quest ion was received in Hindi.

sanction and implement individual rural water supply schemes have been delegated to the State Governments. Accordingly, the scheme-wise details are not maintained at the Central level. However, as per the Comprehensive Action Plan prepared with the information provided by the State Governments in consonance with the National Agenda for Governance, all the rural habitations of the country would be provided with access to safe drinking water supply in five years, subject to availability of funds.

Non-release of grants allocated to Panchayati Raj institutions

† 3594. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the amount of grants allocated to 'Panchayati Raj' institutions in the various States have not been released completely;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to formulate any time frame for releasing funds completely; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) and (b) Grants for the Panchayati Raj Institutions, allocated as per recommendations of the XI Finance Commission, have been released on "on account" basis to the extent 50% of the allocation for the year 2000-2001. The States which have not been released the "on account" 50% of the allocated grant for the year 2000-2001 are the ones where Panchayat elections have not been held. The Statement indicating release of funds to various States is enclosed. (See below)

(c) and (d) The Central Government is formulating the terms and conditions for release of funds meant for Panchayats to various States based on the recommendations of the XI Finance Commission.

Statement

Grants recommended by XI Finance Commission for Panchayats andreleased to the States during 2000-2001

(Rs. in lakhs)

SI. No.	States	Year 2000-2001	
		Recommended	Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15,204.83	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	556.85	278.42
3.	Assam	4,668.95	0.00

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.